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The company participates in a variety of programs in Catawba County and surrounding counties and works closely with other agencies to provide new employee training through apprenticeship and internship programs.

Holly Norris, Hayesville – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Adult Participant.* After Norris dropped out of high school and earned her GED, she entered the Workforce Investment Act program to complete her nursing course work. Before graduation, circumstances with her family forced her to leave school prior to completing the program. After attending to her family, she re-entered the nursing program and graduated with her associate's degree in May 2005. In addition to her diploma, she received Tri-County Community College's "Certificate of Special Achievement for Overcoming Personal Hardships to Graduate with Honors."

Jerry Oliver, Piney Creek – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Adult Participant.* Oliver became a displaced manufacturing worker at the age of 50. Soon after losing his job, he returned to school to learn skills necessary to earn a new job. Oliver's wife lost her job at the same time so he enrolled in classes at Surry Community College while his wife began classes at Wilkes Community College. He earned his associate's degree in May 2005, and now has a new career in the field of nuclear medicine.

Dustin Roy, Lumberton – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Older Youth Participant.* When he was 16, Roy dropped out of school to care for his younger brother, his older sister and her two children. While dealing with the responsibilities of assisting his family, Roy enrolled in the Adult High School at Robeson Community College. He recently received his high school diploma with honors and received a scholarship, which he will use to pursue an associate's degree at Robeson Community College this fall.

Candinda McCurdy, North Wilkesboro – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Younger Youth Participant.* McCurdy enrolled in the WIA Youth Program at the age of 15 and has overcome many personal obstacles while attending school. While focusing on her educational goals, she assisted her mother with care for her younger sister and helped with the household expenses, affording her mother the opportunity to enter college and obtain her own two-year degree. McCurdy graduated from Wilkes Central High School in May 2005 and plans to attend Wilkes Community College this fall to begin working toward an associate's degree. Her career goal is to become a drill sergeant in the United States Army.

Caleb Joe Forbes Jr., Beaufort County JobLink Career Center – *Wayne Daves Award for Outstanding Achievement in Workforce Development.* As the lead career consultant in the Beaufort County JobLink Career Center, Forbes has made a positive impact on operations and community visibility of the Center. He has served as an adult basic education instructor, vocational evaluator, job coach and case manager in the career field of workforce development. At JobLink, he works with